Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANA 02861 150448Z

14
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-10 /080 W
---------- 106773
R 141400Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6531
SECDEF WASHDC/OASD/ISA
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCEUR
COMIDEASTFOR
DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T SANA 2861

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MILI, YE, SA, JO, IR
SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF YAR MILITARY VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

1. MID OCT VISIT OF LTC AHMED AL-GHASHMI, DEP CAIN-C
AND CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE YAR
ARMED FORCES TO SAUDI ARABIA HAS ONCE AGAIN BEEN POSTPONED.
INSTEAD HE WILL DEPART SANA FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO IRAN AND
JORDAN ON 15 OCT 75. GHASHMI WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY FIVE
OFFICERS; CO RESERVE FORCE, CO SIGNAL SERVICE, CO SALADIN
ARMOR CAR BN, AND CO FIRST ARMOR BDE.

2. THIS MILITARY DELEGATION WILL FLY DIRECTLY TO TEHRAN VIA
PRES HAMDI'S PERSONAL IL 18 PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT. ON 19 OCT
THE DEL WILL LEAVE IRAN AND PROCEED DIRECTLY TO AMMAN FOR APPROX
FIVE DAYS. UPON THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT TO JORDAN GHASHMI AND
HIS DEL WILL RETURN TO SANA.
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PAGE 02 SANA 02861 150448Z

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

3. SAUDI ARABIAN MILATT HERE INFORMED DATT THAT HE PERSONALLY PERSUADED GHASHMI TO RETURN TO SANA FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO IRAN AND JORDAN SO THAT FINAL PREPARATIONS PRIOR TO GHASHMI'S TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED. THIS VISIT IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR 1 NOV 75 AND IS TO LAST FOR FIVE DAYS. SAUDI MILATT ATTRIBUTES THIS LATEST DELAY TO SAUDI NEED FOR TIME TO COMPLETE PAPERWORK FOR THIS VISIT FOLLOWING SLOW DOWN OF RAMADAN, THE CONFUSION CAUSED BY THE MOVE OF THE SAUDI GOVT FROM TAIF BACK TO RIYADH, AND THE NECESSITY OF ALLOWING THE NEWLY APPOINTED SAUDI CABINET TIME TO SETTLE INTO THEIR DUTIES. HE ALSO CITED SOME NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED DELAYS RESULTING FROM THE TARDY DELIVERY OF LOAS BY THE USG. FINALLY THE SAUDI MILATT, WITHOUT IDENTIFY-ING NAMES, SAID THAT THE SAUDIS DESIRED THAT THE COMPOSITION OF THE YEMENI DEL TO SAUDI ARABIA BE DIFFERENT THAN THE GROUP DEPARTING ON 15 OCT FOR IRAN AND JORDAN.

4. THE SAUDI MILATT STATED THAT WHEN THE YARG DEL VISITS SAUDI ARABIA IT WILL BE PRESENTED WITH SAG'S RECOMMENDED MILITARY EQUIPMENT PACKAGE FOR YAR. IF THE YAR DELEGATION AGREES TO ACCEPT THE PACKAGE THAT MILATT CLAIMS THAT AT THAT TIME THE YEMENIS WILL BE REQUESTED TO ASK THE SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORS TO LEAVE YEMEN AS A RECIPROCAL GESTURE OF GOOD FAITH. HE STATED THAT THE SAUDIS FEEL THAT THE US, WITH THE DELIVERY OF THE GEP JEEPS FOR THE 106MM RRS, AND THE SAUDIS, WITH THE DELIVERY OF THE PANHARD ARMOR CARS, APC'S AND 105MM HOWITZERS, AND THE JORDANIANS, WITH THEIR SUSTAINED MIL ADVISORY EFFORT, HAVE NOT CONTRIBUTED A SUFFICIENTLY CREDITABLE DEMONSTRATION OF THEIR SINCERE INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO REARMING YAR TO WARRANT THIS DEMAND FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE SOVIET ADVISORS.

5. US AMB, DCM, AND DATT ALL HAVE RECEIVED CONFLICTING EXPLANATIONS FOR THE VISIT OF GHASHMI TO IRAN AT THIS TIME. THE IRANIAN AMB TOLD US AMB THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP IS PRIMARILY A GOOD WILL VISIT AT THE INVITATION OF THE IRANIAN GOVT. THE IRANIAN SAID THAT WHILE GHASHMI IS THERE, IT IS EXPECTED THAT IRAN'S ONGOING MILITARY TRAINING ASSISTANCE TO YAR WILL BE DISCUSSED. HE

SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT MIL EQUIPMENT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE A TOPIC OF DISCUSSION,AS THE IRANIANS BELIEVE THIS IS RIGHTLY A RESPONSIBILITY OF SAUDI ARABIA. WEST GERMAN AMB INFORMED US DCM, HOWEVER, THAT IRANIAN AMB TOLD HIM THAT PLANS FOR AN IRANIAN CONSTRUCTED MIL AIRBASE WOULD BE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION. THE SAUDI MILATT CLAIMS THAT THE IRANIAN HAVE NO PLANS TO BUILD A MIL AIRBASE, BUT IN THE PAST

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

IRAN DID OFFER TO CONSTRUCT AN OFFICERS HOUSING COMPLEX.
THE SAUDIS EXPECTED THAT THIS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE DISCUSSED
AS WELL AS YARG'S DESIRE FOR IRAN TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION
OF A NEW MILITARY HOSPITAL. HE ADDED THAT IF IRAN AGREED
TO THIS LATTER REQUEST SAUDI ARABIA WAS WILLING TO
EQUIP SUCH A MEDICAL FACILITY AND SUPPORT THE COST OF
PAKISTANI MEDICAL PERSONNEL.

6. COMMENT: THE PICTURE WHICH EMERGES FROM THE ABOVE IS
THAT EITHER NO ONE IS QUITE SURE JUST WHAT THE VISIT TO
IRAN IS EXPECTED TO ACCOMPLISH OR SOMEONE WHO DOES
KNOW HAS NOT BEEN ENTIRELY FORTHCOMING IN CONVERSATIONS WITH
MEMBERS OF AMEMB SANA. IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE THAT THE
IRANIAN AMB HAS NOT BEEN FULLY BRIEFED BY HIS GOVT. IT IS
ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE YEMENIS HOPE TO OBTAIN FROM THIS VISIT
TO IRAN SOME SORT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE TO APPLY AGAINST
THE SAUDIS DURING GHASHMI'S NOV VISIT. A THIRD POSSIBILITY
IS THAT THIS IS, IN FACT, A GOOD WILL VISIT BY THE MIL TO FOLLOW
ON BEHIND THE EARLIER VISIT MADE BY PRES HAMDI TO IRAN IN AUG
75. MEANWHILE, THERE IS LITTLE QUESTION THAT THE VISIT TO
JORDAN IS ANYTHING MORE THAN A GOODWILL VISIT, RECIPROCATING
THE VISIT OF THE JORDANIAN C OF S TO SANA ON 26 SEP, YEMEN'S
NATIONAL DAY.
SCOTES

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